I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 233 437 103 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for the latest Application (Commissioner for the latest Application).

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below

Dated: January 15, 2004

Signature: (Richard Zimmermann)

Docket No.: 01017/35966C

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Han et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: January 15, 2004 (herewith)

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: The Human E3α Ubiquitin Ligase Family

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A

MS Patent Application

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 12 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 16 of this paper.